

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF PORTO RICO
Office of the Commissioner
San Juan

Circular Letter No. 47.
January 8, 1912.

To Supervising Principals.

Gentlemen:-

I am sending you under separate cover a sufficient number of copies of the Rules and Regulations concerning health certificates to supply all the teachers of your district. The teachers should be instructed to insert the sheets in their copies of the School Laws, or Rules and Regulations, immediately after paragraph 233 of the edition of 1911.

These supplementary Rules and Regulations have been issued upon recommendation of the Department of Sanitation, my attention having been called officially by that Department to Section 38 of the School Laws, which reads in part as follows:

"Licenses to teach as rural, graded, principal or special teachers shall be granted only to persons of sound physical health."

As will be noted, health certificates must be filed each year by all persons holding licenses to teach, and by all applicants for licenses to teach. That the examinations should be made by the doctors of the Sanitation Service is in accordance with the following extract from a letter of the Director:

"Referring to the physical examination of teachers and applicants for appointment as teachers, I have the honor to state that, according to my opinion, this is a duty which should properly be performed by the officers of this service and, if the regulation proposed is put into effect, I will require them to make the examination proposed without charge."

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As each teacher must present a health certificate before July 1 of each year, he should, if a candidate for a higher grade of license before that time, present it with his application for examination. You were instructed in Circular No. 46 to have all applicants for the examinations in March present their health certificates with their applications.

As the licenses are usually renewed in the month of May, in order that the teachers may be qualified for election by the School Boards in the month of June, it would be advisable for all teachers entitled to renewals, as well as for all those who expect to make application for schools, to present their health certificates as soon as possible after March 1 of each year.

The blanks for these examinations are now in the hands of the printer and will be forwarded to you as soon as received. The certificate is the same as that required by the Bureau of Insular Affairs from all American teachers.

Please see that this matter is brought fully to the attention of all the teachers of your district and that they understand it thoroughly.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Edwin G. Dexter
Commissioner of Education

REA